

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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QUOTE U N C L A S S I F I E D GENEVA 4498

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TAGS: ILO PORG PLO

SUBJ: ILO CONFERENCE: REMARKS OF U.S. DELEGATE ON GRANTING OF
OBSERVER STATE TO PLO

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY DUNLOP AND SEGALL

REF: A. STATE 137020; B. STATE 136080; C. STATE 138706

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE TWO STATEMENTS OF THE U.S. POSITION ON OB-
SERVER STATUS FOR THE PLO MADE BY U.S. DELEGATE DURING THE PLEN-
ARY SESSION OF THE ILO CONFERENCE ON JUNE 12. THE FIRST STATE-
MENT (PARA 2 BELOW) WAS MADE IN THE MORNING DURING THE COURSE OF
DEBATE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE
CONFERENCE; IT IS LOW KEY AND INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR
THE SECOND STATEMENT. IT COULD NOT STATE OR EXPLAIN OUR FORTH-
COMING VOTING POSITION AGAINST THE AMENDMENTS AS OUR STATEMENT AF-
TER THE VOTE HAD TO BE IN TERMS OF AND EXPLANATION OF OUR VOTE.
IN SECOND STATEMENT, MADE AFTER ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO STANDING
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ORDERS AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER IRVING BROWN'S STATEMENT OF WITH-
DRAWAL FROM CONFERENCE, U.S. DELEGATE ADDED TO TEXT IN REF B INTRO-
DUCTORY AND CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS. THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH
WAS NECESSARY TO CONFORM TO REQUIREMENT THAT STATEMENT BE EXPLANA-

TION OF VOTE. THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH CONFORMS THE STATEMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A. THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SECOND STATEMENT IS IN PARA 3 BELOW:

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. PERSONS (GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, UNITED STATES)
--THERE ARE TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AND TO WHICH I WISH TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE. THE FIRST IS PARAGRAPH 21. THAT PARAGRAPH IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT SAYS AND THE DISTINCTION OF THE DELEGATE WHO SAID IT.

THE SECOND IS PARAGRAPH 10. THAT PARAGRAPH IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT DOES NOT SAY.

LET US FIRST TURN TO PARAGRAPH 21. IT DESCRIBES A DECLARATION MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE HEAD OF HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO THIS CONFERENCE. MR. KHATTABI IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE AND BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR HIS INTEGRITY WHICH WAS SO CLEARLY DISPLAYED, AND WHICH CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE CONFIDENCE HE INSPIRED, DURING HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BODY AS ITS CHAIRMAN OVER THE PAST YEAR.

MR. KHATTABI'S DECLARATION SUMMARISED IN PARAGRAPH 21 DEALS ENTIRELY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION IN THIS CONFERENCE AS SOON AS THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AND, AS PERMITTED THEREBY, THE PLO HAS BEEN INVITED.

THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN THAT DECLARATION TO THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS SERVING ANY OTHER PURPOSE. AS MR. KHATTABI'S STATEMENT POINTS OUT, THE EXERCISE WHICH BEGAN WITH THE REQUEST OF THE PLO TO THE 59TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, AND WHICH IS BEING CONCLUDED HERE TODAY, HAS BEEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE ILO TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION AND INVITING ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS IN THE ILO.

WITH THAT IN MIND, LET US NOW TURN TO PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE REPORT WHICH, AS I NOTED EARLIER, IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT DOES NOT SAY. THAT PARAGRAPH INFORMS THE CONFERENCE THAT ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE A WORKING PARTY, COMPOSED OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE SPONSORS OF THE THREE AMENDMENTS WHO ARE IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 9 OF THE REPORT, HELD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED TEXT WHICH MIGHT BE THE BASIS OF A WIDE CONSENSUS IN THE COMMITTEE. THE PARAGRAPH DOES NOT REVEAL TO THE CONFERENCE THE TEXT OF THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH WAS DEVELOPED AND CONCERNING WHICH THE COMMITTEE WAS CONSULTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER INDEED IT DID PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A WIDE CONSENSUS IN THE COMMITTEE.

THE WORKING PARTY UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WORKED EXCEEDINGLY HARD AND IT DID ARRIVE AT THIS INFORMAL TEXT WHICH DEALT WITH THE BASIC ISSUE OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE. TRUE, THE TEXT WAS INFORMAL. IT DID NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT

FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ALL OF WHOM WERE CONSULTED, TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OFFICIALLY REPORTED THE TEXT TO THE COMMITTEE AND ADJOURNED THE THE COMMITTEE FOR 15 MINUTES TO PERMIT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND CONSULT ON THIS TEXT. SO IT IS IMPORTANT, AS OTHER SPEAKERS HAVE STATED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD KNOW THE CONTENT OF THIS TEXT, KNOW THE ISSUE WITH WHICH IT DEALT, KNOW THE REMARKABLE DEGREE TO WHICH THE WORKING PARTY MOVED TOWARDS A COMPROMISE ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE DIVIDING THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND UNDERSTAND THE BASIS FROM WHICH THE COMMITTEE PROCEEDED TO FINISH ITS WORK. THE TEXT OF A POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 2, PARAGRAPH 3, THROUGH THE ADDITION OF A NEW CLAUSE (K) WAS AS FOLLOWS: "THE REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNISED BY THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY OR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE CONFERENCE OR THE GOVERNING BODY TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN QUESTION FULLY RECOGNISES THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AND ITS CONSTITUTION."

THE CHAIRMAN ALSO READ TO THE COMMITTEE A FURTHER TEXT WHICH WAS NOT TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE STANDING ORDERS THEMSELVES BUT WHICH WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE WERE THE TEXT I HAVE JUST READ TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE. AND THIS IS AN EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT TEXT, WHICH I WISH TO READ TO YOU: "THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISES THAT, IN PARTICULAR, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT CONCERNED WOULD REGARD ITSELF AS BOUND, IN THE SAME WAY AS MEMBER STATES, BY THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN AR-
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TICLES 1 AND 2 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS." MR. SEIDMAN I THINK HAS READ TO YOU THE TEXT OF A PARAGRAPH IN ARTICLE 2 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT.

WELL, THIS TEXT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PREVENT ITS FORMAL CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE AND BY THE CONFERENCE. THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE A PRINCIPLE UNDER WHICH THE INVITATION OF APPLICANT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS COULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK TO DISRUPT THE WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF THE MEMBERS STATES OF THE ILO HAS BEEN LOST.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT URGES ALL DELEGATES TO PONDER THIS LOST OPPORTUNITY CAREFULLY BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS CONTAINED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WARRANT THEIR SUPPORT OR WILL SERVE EITHER THEIR INTERESTS IN THE WORK OF THE ILO OR THE INTERESTS OF THE ILO ITSELF. WE THINK THOSE AMENDMENTS DO NOT SERVE THOSE INTERESTS.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DELEGATION SUPPORTS THE AMENDMENT IN DOCUMENT CIT 60/D.1 SUBMITTED BY THE WORKERS' DELEGATES OF THE UNITED STATES, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, COLOMBIA, CANADA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM. END TEXT.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. PERSONS (GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, UNITED STATES)- I WISH TO EXPLAIN THE NEGATIVE VOTE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS AND THE BASIS FOR MY GOVERNMENT'S GRAVE CONCERN REGARDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT DECISION.

THIS CONFERENCE HAS JUST BETRAYED THE FIRST PURPOSES OF THIS ORGANISATION. THOSE WHO INSISTED ON RAISING A POLITICAL ISSUE ON WHICH THERE ARE DEEPLY FELT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROUPS OF WORKERS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, HAVE CREATED A DANGEROUS DIVISION AMONG US. THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE ILO'S NEEDS THE MOST AND FOR WHOSE SERVICES IT WAS CREATED HAVE NOW BEEN SET AT ODDS BY THIS ILL-CONSIDERED AND TRAGIC DECISION. WE HAVE JUST SEEN THE FIRST, SERIOUSLY DAMAGING, CONSEQUENCES OF THIS ACT. THE ILO, AS WE ARE OFTEN REMINDED, IS SUI GENERIS AMONG THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. LIKE OTHER SUCH ORGANISATIONS, IT HAS AN EXTENSIVE AND WORLDWIDE PROGRAMME OF IMPORTANT WORK. UNLIKE THEM, HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE VERY STRUCTURE, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE ILO HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE SPECIAL PURPOSES OF THE ORGANISATION.

IN ALL THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ILO AS AN ORGANISATION, AND ESPECIALLY IN CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS SUCH AS THIS, THE STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES THEMSELVES ENCOURAGE A CONSTANT INTERCHANGE AMONG WORKERS', EMPLOYERS' AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS. THIS WHOLESOME DIALOGUE, AS THE FOUNDERS OF THE ILO WELL KNEW, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CAUSE OF LABOUR. ITS IMPORTANCE IS SYMBOLISED AND SERVED ABOVE ALL BY OUR UNIQUELY CONSTITUTED DELEGATIONS, WHOSE TRIPARTITE FORM WAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO CREATE A FORM IN WHICH (THOUGH GOVERNMENTS WOULD NECESSARILY BE REPRESENTED) THE POLITICAL CONFLICTS OF GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT OBSCURE THE NEEDS OF LABOUR, AND IN WHICH LABOUR WOULD SPEAK WITH GOVERNMENTS AND EMPLOYERS WITH AN EQUAL VOICE.

NOW THAT DIALOGUE HAS BEEN BRUTALLY INTERRUPTED. THIS FORUM AND THIS ORGANISATION, SO CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE BY POLITICAL DISPUTE, HAS NONE THE LESS BEEN DIVERTED FROM ITS TRUE AND IMPORTANT CONCERNS BY A CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ACT. THE INTERACTION HERE BETWEEN THE THREE GROUPS REPRESENTED ON OUR DELEGATIONS HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND SUBVERTED BY THE INTRODUCTION, AGAINST THE WISHES OF MILLIONS OF AMERICAN AND OTHER WORKERS, OF AN ENTITY WHICH IS NEITHER A GOVERNMENT NOR AN EMPLOYEE NOR A UNION.

IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE FINAL, FULL EFFECTS OF THAT SELFISH SUBVERSION OF THE TRUE PURPOSES AND PROCEDURES OF OUR ORGANISATION. THOSE WHO HEEDLESSLY BROUGHT

ABOUT THIS UNNECESSARY TRAGEDY DID NOT WEIGH AGAINST THEIR POLITICAL PURPOSES THE WIDE-RANGING INTERESTS OF LABOUR WHICH THIS ORGANISATION HAS SERVED SO WELL. WE, WHOSE WORKERS AND CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PROFOUNDLY AFFRONTED, MUST NOW DO SO.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, AS AN EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED STATES WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' DELEGATIONS, IS ALSO GOING TO ABSENT ITSELF FROM THIS MEETING. WE SHALL HOWEVER RETURN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

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ENCE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, WHEN IT GETS BACK TO ITS REGULAR WORK, SO AS TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS IN THE ORGANISATION.

END TEXT.

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